THANK YOU

The achievements in the last year have been wonderful. But they would not have been possible without the efforts of all of you. The Regional Baha'i Council would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the dear ones who have contributed to the growth of the region in the last year.

Before anything else we would like to thank Counsellor Omid Seioshansian for his constant efforts to make sure everyone remained focussed on the plan. His constant emails and visits are the main reason for the progress in the region.

We would next like to thank our Auxiliary Board members. It would be no exaggeration if we say each Auxiliary Board Member has been working equal to ten people. Their repeated visits to the clusters; their spearheading of activities in cluster after cluster are the main reason we are seeing so much progress. We would specially like to thank Miss Martha and Mrs. Kiran Sinha for their extended travels in the Region.

We would then like to thank the Institute Board, the institute secretary Dr. Nicole and our Institute coordinator Mrs. B. Mohajer who over the years have helped a large number of believers learn the necessary skills to serve the Faith.

We would next like to thank all our dear cluster coordinators, cluster facilitators, coordinators for Junior youth and children classes for their services in the cluster. The increase in the number of core activities is directly due to the efforts put in by these wonderful believers.

We are really, really grateful to our beloved animators, teachers of children class, and above all the tutors who are serving with utmost sincerity and helping establish God's Kingdom in the region. We would also like to thank all the friends who hold devotional meetings, nineteen day feasts and other activities in their homes.

Again we would like to thank all the teachers of the Faith who cycle after cycle arise and help carry the healing message of Baha'u'llah to the Masses. We have no doubt these services are bringing near the day when we shall witness entry by troops.

We would also like to thank the members of Cluster Growth Committees and the members of Local Spiritual Assemblies for their efforts in carrying the Faith forward at the cluster level. Without their efforts and guidance progress almost stops.

Finally we are most grateful to the staff working at the Regional Office whose dedicated and selfless services are an example for all of us to follow.

Regional Baha'i Council of UP, Delhi and Uttaranchal

Annual Report

Ridva'n 162 B.E.
2006 - 2007

Regional Baha'i Council of UP, Delhi and Uttarakhand
10, J. C. Bose Marg, Lalbagh, Lucknow

Dearly loved friends,

We are indeed passing through exciting times. We are seeing the beginning of a process that is going to eventually lead us to entry by troops. The first signs are clearly visible to us. From cluster after cluster we hear the news of more and more people accepting the Faith. In fact since the beginning of this century we have never had as much success in teaching as we are witnessing now. Of course this is nothing as compared to what we are going to witness in the near future. This flow of new believers puts a responsibility on all our shoulders.

We can not just sit back and be happy about our achievements. If the tutors, the children class teachers and the animators do not arise to increase the core activities accordingly we are going to loose many of the new believers who have so enthusiastically joined the Faith.

Dear friends, we are facing the most critical phase in the history of the faith in our region. Faced with what looks almost like an impossible task of making 51 'A' clusters in three and a half years, faced with having to train a sea of human resources in cluster after cluster, faced with having to multiply not only our core activities but also our human resources in a short period of time, faced with the challenge of making thousand upon thousands of Junior Youth groups, and multiplying our children classes, faced with the challenge of bringing in hundreds of people in each cycle of growth and helping them get trained - and all this through just a handful of believers - we are indeed privileged and challenged.

But every challenge can be overcome through action and the blessings of Baha'u'llah. If we all arise to do our utmost in the coming months and years there is no doubt we will be able to achieve a victory that will astound us.

The challenge before us is clear before anything else we need about twenty two pioneers. This is our first priority. Who are those dedicated souls that will arise to fulfill this first requirement?

Then we need an army of tutors. In each A cluster we need at least 25 tutors who will be all the time having their own study circles. This will

FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Dear Baha'i friends,
The Regional Baha'i Council of Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Uttarakhand is very grateful to all the believers in the region for their sacrificial contributions to the Regional branch of the National Fund. We are especially Thankful to all major Local Spiritual Assemblies in the state of UP for their regular and continuous support. During this financial year, close to two hundred believers contributed regularly towards the Regional Fund and this made it possible for the Council to be functionally self-supporting.

One of the signs of the Maturity of a community is the degree to which believers are willing to sacrifice their personal resources and belongings for the promotion of the Cause of God. The Baha'is of UP, Delhi and Uttarakhand have, through their sacrificial contributions, demonstrated that they are now well-prepared and ready to help the Cause of God grow in every spot and corner of the region. Rest assured that your selfless contributions would play a glorious role in enhancing the process of entry by troops in the region.

- Treasurer

Contributions towards the Regional branch of the National fund		
	2005 - 2006	**2006-2007**
November	**14166.00**	**45197.00**
December	**10005.00**	**18750.00**
January	**8675.00**	**25513.00**
February	**18181.00**	**10575.00**
March	**21400.00**	**36011.00**
April	**35129.00**	**38951.00**
May	**23020.00**	**19789.00**
June	**30301.00**	**8290.00**
July	**11281.00**	**22345.00**
August	**22001.00**	**24475.00**
September	**28490.00**	**11141.00**
October	**8340.00**	**17040.00**
Total Callection	**230989.00**	**278077.00**

cupations, however unfavorable the environment in which they live..show often...have the lowliest adherents of the Faith, unschooled and utterly inexperienced, and with no standing whatever, and in some cases devoid of intelligence, been capable of winning victories for their Cause, before which the most brilliant achievements of the learned, the wise, and the experienced have paled."

Shoghi Effendi, quoted in The Priceless Pearl, p. 371

With the inspiring words above can we wait any longer. Should we not arise forget our shortcomings, sacrifice everything and putting our trust wholly in Baha'u'llah arise to conquer areas where we are most needed, where the masses are eagerly waiting to hear the glad tidings of the coming of Baha'u'llah, where we can help establish God's kingdom on earth. What greater achievement than this?

"Now if ever is the time to tread the path which the dawn-breakers of a previous age have so magnificently trodden. Now is the time to carry out, in the spirit and in the letter, the fervent wish so pathetically voiced by 'Abdu'l-Baha, who longed, as attested in the Tablets of the Divine Plan, to 'travel though on foot and in the utmost poverty' and raise 'in cities, villages, mountains, deserts and oceans' 'the call of Ya-Baha'ul-Abha!'

". .. That the members of this community, of either sex and of every age, of whatever race or background, however limited in experience, capacity and knowledge, may arise as one man, and seize with both hands the God given opportunities now presented to them through the dispensations of an all-loving, ever-watchful, ever-sustaining Providence,...is one of the dearest wishes which a loving and longing heart holds for them . . ."

Shoghi Effendi, Citadel of Faith, pp. 131-132

Friends if you decide to give one year of your life to this most great service contact the Regional Baha'i Council at the earliest.

be their main focus - continuously training believers in the courses of the Ruhi institute. In B clusters we need around ten to fifteen such tutors.

Then we need animators for junior youth groups and teachers of children classes to train the next generation of believers and seekers. Without this activity the Faith can not survive in any cluster.

We also need families and individuals who will open their homes for devotional meetings and other Baha'i activities such as nineteen day feasts and reflection meetings.

Last but not least we need every Baha'i to take up the responsibility of teaching the Cause, both individually and as part of teaching teams.

What is required from us is quite clear but what is not clear is what will be our contribution in fulfilling the above requirements. This is something each individual will have to decide for himself.

We would like to appeal to all the believers in the region, to prayerfully decide about their contribution towards the fulfillment of the remaining goals of the five year plan.

Friends, there really is no time to loose. The establishment of God's kingdom on earth has been put upon our shoulders. We can remain passive observers in the unfoldment of God's plan or we can decide to become heroes and heroines, working together to change our region. The choice is ours. Let us arise together and use the opportunities that are so abundantly available now.

Let these words of the beloved Guardian be our guide in the months to come *"There is no time to lose. There is no room left for vacillation. Multitudes hunger for the Bread of Life. The stage is set. The firm and irrevocable Promise is given. God's own Plan has been set in motion. It is gathering momentum with every passing day. The powers of heaven and earth mysteriously assist in its execution. Such an opportunity is irreplaceable. Let the doubter arise, and himself verify the truth of such assertions. To try, to persevere, is to ensure ultimate and complete victory."*

Regional Baha'i Council of UP, Delhi and UK

Summary of the activities taking place in the region

progress of clusters– The second movement

We have seen a steady progress in many clusters. A study of the clusters shows that we have had something or the other going on in around 38 clusters..

The B clusters:

Perhaps the greatest progress we have witnessed so far has been in the B clusters. **Varanasi, Kanpur, Rasoolabad and Kirakat** are almost at the verge of becoming A clusters. For them it is no more—will they become A clusters but when will they become A clusters. There is a close race between them and we are all watching eagerly to see which one will be the first. But they should not forget the December deadline. **Rampur** a late starter is also catching up from behind. In fact don't be surprised if the wonderful believers in Rampur surprise all of us by becoming an A cluster in the second year of the five year plan.

Gorakpur is also moving ahead. Some prefer to call Gorakpur the quiet lion. Everyone says Gorakpur will move ahead slowly but suddenly they will pick speed and get ahead of everyone else. We know the potential in Gorakpur and we know the dedication of the believers there. Don't be surprised if they suddenly get ahead of not only all the B clusters but also the A clusters. Miss Martha and Mrs. Kiran Sinha, Dr. R. P. Singh and Mr. Suchit Singh need to be thanked for their services in this zone

The C clusters:
Many of the C clusters are still getting their act together. In **zone 5 Dehradun** has made wonderful progress. If they continue at the same rate they should become B cluster by the next year and an A cluster a year after that. The other three clusters in this zone have not started to move as yet. We would like to thank Mrs. Shaheda and the pioneers in Dehradun for the wonderful work they are doing.

In **zone 1 Agra, Ghazziabad** and **Noida** are moving ahead. But all three clusters have the capacity to grow much faster. **Aligarh** and **Bulandshahr** have not started to move as yet. We should not forget to thank Miss Su.

PIONEERS—THE QUICKENERS OF MANKIND

Dear friends, the time has come to show we are the true followers of the Blessed Beauty. In the coming year we are going to need a stream of pioneers in our region. We need at least 22 pioneers in the coming year. Let us meditate on the following quotations and then decide if we are the heroes and heroines that are going to change the shape of the world.

"At this time and at this period we must avail ourselves of this most great opportunity. We must not sit inactive for one moment; we must sever ourselves from composure, rest, tranquility, goods, property, life and attachment to material things. We must sacrifice everything to His Highness, the Possessor of existence, so that the powers of the Kingdom may show greater penetration and the brilliant effulgence in this New Cycle may illumine the worlds of mind and ideals."

'Abdu'l-Baha, Tablets of the Divine Plan.

"He ('Abdu'l-Baha) rested not a moment, till the fame of the Cause of God was noised abroad in the world... The beloved of God must also follow the same example. This is the secret of faithfulness, this is the requirement of servitude to the Threshold of Baha!" '

Abdu'l-Baha, Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha, p. I

"If my health were good at present, I would not wait one day longer. I would go ... to all parts of the world to cry and call out. Had I been free during the forty years of my imprisonment in 'Akka, I would have traveled to the East, West, North and South of the world. I would not have kept still for one minute...

'Abdu'l-Baha, published in Star of the West.

"Let us scatter to the uttermost corners of the earth; sacrifice our personal interests, comforts, tastes and pleasures..."

Shoghi Effendi, Baha'i Administration, p. 69

"From Tibet to the South Seas, Africa to far off points in Asia and Europe -- there are lands waiting to be opened to the Faith. He will pray that some of you may be the ones to render this form of service."
Letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi
"All must participate (in pioneering), however humble their origin, however limited their experience, however restricted their means, however deficient their education, however pressing their cares and preoc-

our individual lives must increasingly mirror forth each day the teachings of Ba-ha'u'llah and we must so live our lives that all will see in us a different people. The acts we perform, the attitudes we manifest, the very words we speak should be an attraction, a magnet, drawing the sincere to the Divine Teachings.

(The Universal House of Justice,)

A cluster wise analysis shows that teaching efforts have increased almost in all clusters:-
The victories in the past should inspire us to achieve greater victories in the future.
...Please God, ye may achieve it…
(Abdu'l-Baha)

Cluster	Nov 05- Oct 06	Nov 06 - Oct 07
Delhi	81	860
Agra	13	1
Agra-Kakua	12	0
Azamgarh	5	14
Banthra	185	379
Barabanki	3	37
Bhadohi	2	0
Bidhuna	155	1170
Dehradun	0	62
Deoria	3	1
Farrukhabad	1	0
Fatehpur	45	0
Gaziabad	2	3
Gorakhpur	33	74
Harak	0	27
Hardoi	13	4
Jaunpur	3	5
Kakori	121	385
Kannauj	28	32
Kanpur	28	80
Kirakat	51	121
Lakhempur	0	0
Lucknow	68	174
Maharajganj	0	2
Mainpuri	3	1
Mal	0	63
Malihabad	0	1
Mau	0	42
Noida	1	13
Paliay Kalan (Khiri)	0	12
Puranpur	0	24
Rai Bareli	16	26
Rampur	4	2
Rasoolabad	71	55
Sandilla	0	19
Sultanpur	3	12
Tirwa	28	11
Unnao City	3	4
Unnao Hasanganj	8	118
Unnao Purva	12	84
Varanasi	5	88

jjata, Mrs. Shaheda and Mrs. Gloria for their services in this zone

In **zone 2 Tirwa** has made good progress. They will probably become a B cluster by next year and an A cluster a year after that. **Sahar** will also probably become an A cluster. There was some confusion in the beginning of the plan and many parts of Sahar were included under Bidhuna. Once it becomes clear which areas actually belong to Sahar and which to Bidhuna we will be better able to understand the situation in this cluster. But probably by next year they should become an A cluster. **Chibramau** is slowly waking up. **Jalaun** has started doing well. **Ajit mal, Jhinjak, Airwa Khatra**, **Mainpuri and Kannauj** need to start moving. If Miss Martha and Mr. Dreg Pal continue their wonderful services there is no doubt these clusters will all start moving ahead.

Zone 3 seems to be better placed than the other zones at present as far as C clusters are concerned. Although in many clusters the movement is sporadic. We see signs of life followed by sudden death to be once again followed by signs of life. But on the whole things seems to be moving ion the right direction. **Unnao Purva** and **Unnao Hasanganj** seem to be moving ahead smoothly. Although they have a long way to go to become a B cluster but they will probably become a B cluster either next year or the year after that. **Harak** and **Barabanki** seem to be doing well. They have had a taste of all sorts of activities including junior youth classes and study circles, direct teaching etc. **Rae Barreilly** has been visited quite a few times. There is great capacity here also, but a pioneer is urgently needed in this cluster. **Fatehpur** is moving by jumps and starts. They move suddenly and stop to rest but on the whole there seems to be good progress there. Work is being done to create a group of believers in **Itaunja**. A regular study circle is going on there. Children classes have also started. Once this core groups is made things will move ahead much faster. **Sultanpur** was moving faster than any other cluster but now they have stopped to rest. **Phillibhit** was visited by our two brave women Mrs. B. Mohajer and Mrs. K. Sinha, there is a great capacity there but somebody will need to go there pioneering. **Mal, Mallihabad** and **Sandilla** are crawling ahead. Many people have accepted the Faith in Mal if they can somehow be trained we will have a wonderful cluster there. **Hardoi** was visited twice and twelve people accepted the Faith there. **Unnao city** was visited and a few people accepted the Faith there but at present everything is quiet there. We need to thank our

Auxiliary Board members Mr. C. Lal, Dr. Nicole, Mr. Sanjeev. Mr. Ram Vilas and Mr. Brajesh for their wonderful services.
In **zone 4** the B clusters are doing well but the same can not be said of the C clusters. **Mau** at present is well placed and if the friends in Mau focus on the core activities this cluster can become a B cluster by next year. Some activity is going on in **Azamgarh** and **Sararhi**. Visits have also been made to **Maharajganj** and **Kathor.** Nothing seems to be taking place in **Jaunpur** and **Deoria**. Probably once Kirakat, Varanasi and Gorakpur become A clusters they will be better able to look after these other clusters. In the meantime we need pioneers in these clusters.

The A clusters:

Now we come to the **A clusters**. **Delhi** leads the way in terms of study circles. In the last count there were a staggering 36 study circles going on in the cluster. They have also shown us the way in terms of new declarations. They are practically crossing the 250 mark in cycle after cycle.

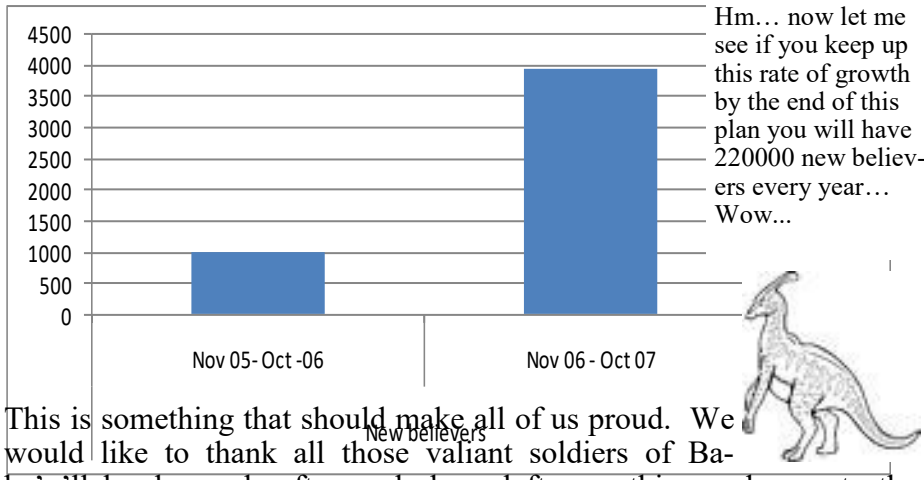
Kakori needs to be lauded in their efforts at increasing the Junior youth classes. We have no doubt in the long run this one factor will make Kakori lead all the other clusters in every aspect. At the last count there were 34 JYSEP groups and this number keeps increasing cycle after cycle. The question in everyone's mind is will they reach the 50 Mark before Ridvan 2008— Is Mr. Ram Vilas listening? As far as the other core activities are concerned Kakori is doing very well. There are almost 25 Study circles and children classes and devotional meetings are increasing in every cycle. The two facilitators are working very hard to increase the devotional meetings. In fact the last time we talked to them they told us they had started twelve new devotional meetings.

Bidhuna was moving ahead very slowly in the first year of the five year plan. But suddenly they have gone ahead of all other clusters in terms of new declarations. In the last two cycles they have crossed the 300 mark. The core activities except the Junior youth classes are also increasing cycle after cycle. They now have almost 20 study circles. The facilitators are also working to increase the devotional meetings and they are meeting with success.

Banthara had a very successful teaching phase this time. They achieved the target they had set for themselves. Under the guidance of Mr. Shatruhan Lal Verma the number of devotional meetings has gone up from 11 to

TEACHING—THE CORNERSTONE OF ALL ACTIVITIES

Perhaps among our greatest achievements last year was the increase that took place in teaching. Being constantly pushed by Counsellor Omid to achieve greater and greater success in teaching, the friends have risen to bring in the masses. The statistics clearly shows we are getting success in this field. In the past one year (Nov-06 to Oct 07) we have had 4006 declarations. The actual number is more than this but this is the number for which cards have been received at the office. In the same period last year we had 1006 new believers. So the number has increased by 398%.

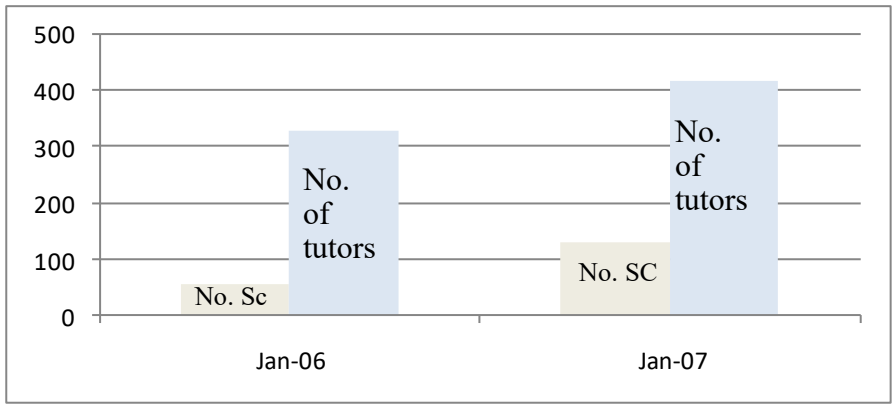


Hm… now let me see if you keep up this rate of growth by the end of this plan you will have 220000 new believers every year… Wow...

This is something that should make all of us proud. We would like to thank all those valiant soldiers of Ba-ha'u'llah who cycle after cycle have left everything and gone to the field of teaching to bring in the masses. These words of the Universal House of Justice should inspire us to forge ahead even more vigorously this year—

'The blessings of the Ancient Beauty are being showered upon the followers of the Greatest Name. Our efforts to serve Him and humanity are being crowned with victories throughout the world...'
(The Universal House of Justice, Messages 1963 to 1986, p. 221)
In the above passage the Universal House of Justice also remind us that—
...as the number of believers increases over the face of the planet,

	Study circles			
Cluster	Before the plan	Participants	September—2007	Partici-pants
Delhi	22	60	36	224
Tirwa	0	0	1	9
Bidhuna	12	102	19	185
Rasoolabad	0	0	3	29
Hasanganj	0	0	2	18
Itaunja	0	0	2	16
Kanpur	1	2	14	71
Lucknow	8	57	10	56
Rampur	0	0	1	6
Gorakpur	0	0	2	10
Varanasi	1	15	4	35
Kirakat	1	6	4	48
Dehradun	0	0	2	10
Kakori	7	65	25	210
Banthara	3	17	6	74
Total	55	332	131	1001



The Percentage of tutors as compared to study circles was 16.7 % in 2006 and it is now 30.9 %.

44 and this number is increasing week after week. The Banthara cluster has a group of young and dedicated believers. They have the capacity to lead all other clusters in the state. Work is being done to increase the children classes, junior youth classes and study circles. These efforts are slowly bearing fruit. Soon we are going to hear news of great victories from Banthara.

Looking at the statistics of **Lucknow** one may feel things are moving ahead slowly. But there are a few factors that indicate Lucknow will soon move ahead very fast. The Auxiliary Board members, the Local Spiritual Assembly and the Local teaching committee are coordinating and working together very smoothly. This is a very good sign. The number of study circles has doubled. The number of seekers being approached during the teaching phase has increased dramatically, work is also being done to increase the devotional meetings. The community is also being approached to increase children classes and work is on to increase JYSEP classes. If these efforts are continued we have no doubt Lucknow will suddenly forge ahead. .

Looking at the state on the whole we are on the one hand very pleased to see the great progress made as compared to what we were in the beginning of the five year plan. But on the other hand we are also alarmed because at our present speed we will not be able to fulfill our goal of 51 A clusters by the end of the plan. In fact at our present speed we will probably be able to have only 24 A clusters by the end of the five year plan.

This reality should make all of us worried It is really surprising that in spite of the fact that so many devoted believers are giving all their time, money and energy to the establishment of the Faith and the fulfillment of the goals of the five year plan we are still not going to make it. What do we do? Do we sit back and hope for a miracle? Or do we find a solution? There is in fact a solution - we need more active participants in the plan. We can not afford to continue to be passive or half hearted supporters of the plan. Each person, whether man or woman, young or old, child or adult should contribute to the fulfillment of the goals of the plan. Friends let join together and in our heart promise to Baha'u'llah not to rest till all the goals of the five year plan are fulfilled.

The First Movement

Going through a sequence of courses

No annual report is complete without the mention of the wonderful work being done by the institute Board and the State coordinator. The institute Board had some wonderful meetings and they made great plans and took important decisions that is going to bring acceleration in the growth process in the whole state.

The State Coordinator was as usual taking the lead. A recent study of the available data we have of institute courses showed something interesting. Of about 5000 people who have gone through some or the other course in the whole state more than half were trained by Mrs. Mohajer many times accompanied by Mr. Prem Singh. Of course the actual number is much more than this. This is the number for which we have data available.

The hard work put in by the institute Board, the regional Coordinator, the cluster coordinators and the tutors over the years is slowly bearing fruit. The number of study circles is slowly but steadily increasing. At the beginning of the present five year plan there were 44 study circles. In the last cycle the number had increased to 131 and this number is increasing cycle after cycle. The number of Ruhi graduates has also increased as can be seen in the chart below.

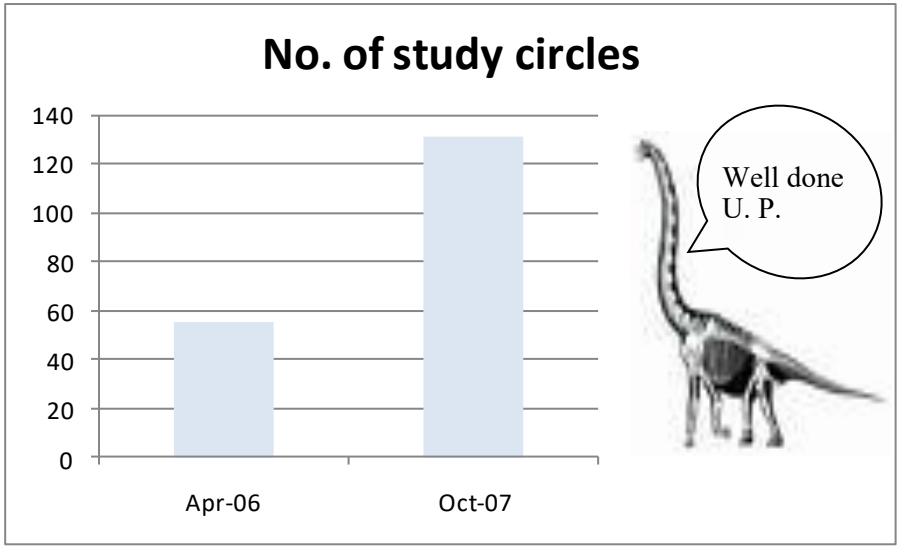
Although the numbers are encouraging but when compared to what we actually need to achieve we are far, far behind. For example it has taken

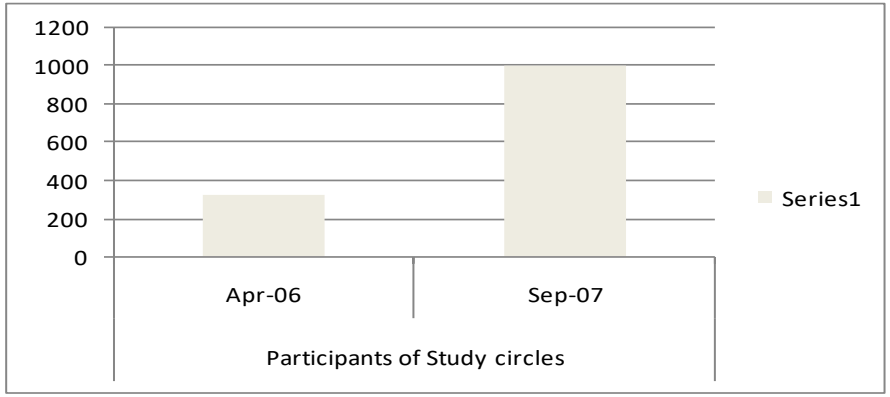
	Book 1	Book 2	Book 3	Book 4	Book 5	Book 6	Book 7
Beginning of five year plan	3079	936	1085	648	224	404	329
Present time	4092	1490	1441	764	403	526	420

us more than 12 years to reach the number - 420 tutors but we now need to have 2500 tutors in less than three and a half years. This is a responsibility put on the shoulders of all the tutors in the state. We all know the challenges faced when taking a group of people from Ruhi 1 to Ruhi 7 but

It has been seen in cluster after cluster. If the coordinators are serious with their work the number of study circles increases from cycle to cycle. It is the same with JYSEP classes and devotional meetings. The increase in number of core activities in a cluster is directly proportional to the efforts put in by the coordinator or facilitator in charge of that cluster.

Seeing this trend we would like to appeal to all the cluster coordinators not to rest till at least 70—80% of the tutors in their cluster are holding study circles.





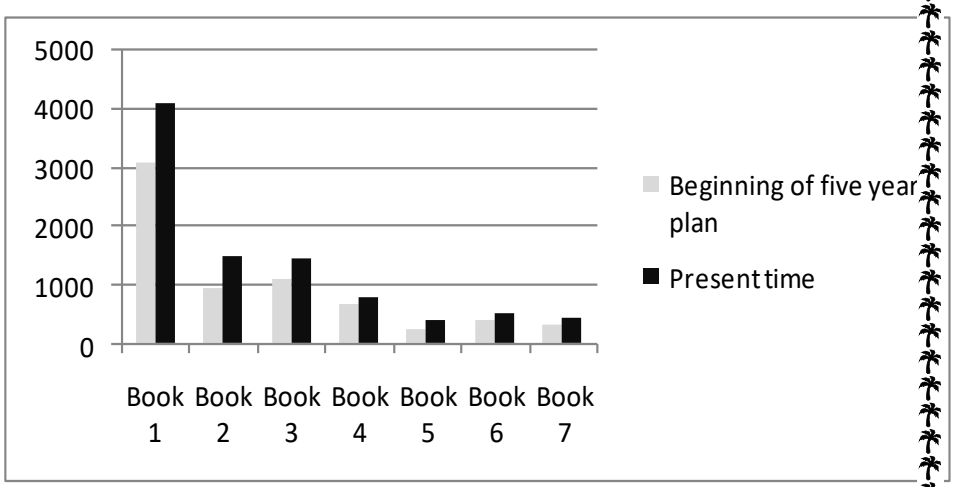
STUDY CIRCLES

We now come to look at our greatest challenge and our greatest achievement—the study circles. Without a proper system of training at the cluster level things are soon going to come to a standstill. It is no use bringing in the masses if we can not assist them in becoming part of the community. The demands on trained human resources in every cluster is great, and this demand increases cycle after cycle. We have to somehow learn to prepare enough human resources to look after the demands of the cluster. The statistics shows us that at the beginning of the present five year plan there were 55 study circles in the region. This number has increased cycle after cycle with the result that in the last cycle we had 131 study circles in the state. There were 1001 students in these study circles. This is an achievement we should all be proud of.

There are still two issues we need to look into more closely. In the first place we need to make sure the study circles we start finish in a reasonable time. There are still many study circles that start but do not finish. Of course when we look at the number of study circles finishing we see that we are progressing year after year and cycle after cycle. The second point we need to be careful is to make sure the practice component of our study circles is not ignored. In the final analysis the purpose of a study circle is to increase the human resources. If we take someone from book one to seven but he still does not know how to conduct study circles or hold children classes or JYSEP classes, we have not been a very good tutor and our human resources have not increased.

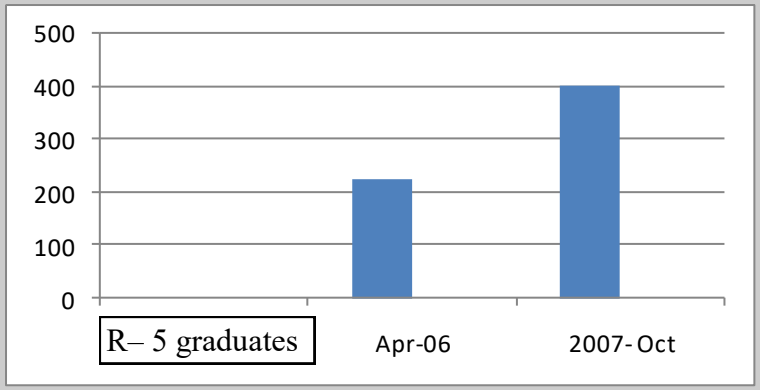
A great responsibility lies on the shoulders of the cluster coordinators. Whereas the coordinators of children classes can be content if 30 % of Ruhi 3 graduates conduct children classes the same can not be said of study circles. They need to aim for at least 70% of tutors holding classes. This means they need to have frequent consultations and refresher courses with the tutors. They also need to be visiting the tutors frequently.

this is something that needs to be done and the sooner we start the better. The study circles need to be multiplied and a series of zonal and local campaigns need to be conducted one after the other if we are to achieve the goals of the five year plan.

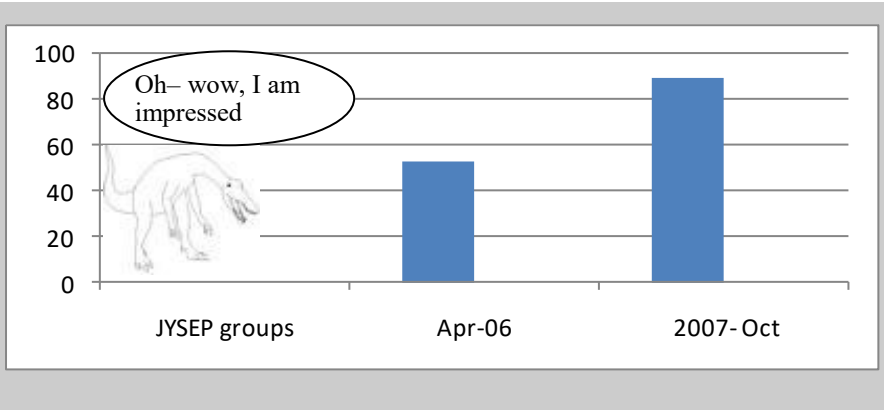


JUNIOR YOUTH SPIRITUAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The JYSEP programme is slowly moving ahead. Of course the rate of progress needs to be dramatically increased if we want to see real progress in the state, but on the whole we can see the number of junior youth groups slowly increasing. In the first place the number of our animators has gone up. Before the present five year plan there were 224 believers who had studied Ruhi 5. among these almost half were those who had actually done Ruhi 3A instead of Ruhi 5. Now we have 403 animators.



The number of classes have also gone up in the same Ratio. In April 2006 we had 53 classes, now we have 90 classes.



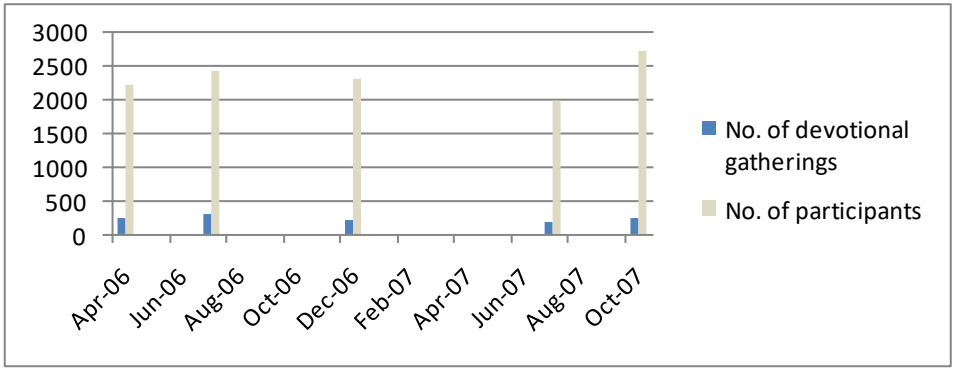
DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS

If Baha'i children classes and Junior youth classes ensure that everything in a cluster will work smoothly in the future, the devotional meetings will make sure that everything moves ahead smoothly at the present.

Attending a devotional meeting where the holy writings are recited and sung in beautiful melodies is indeed very spiritually uplifting for most people. It is after being inspired by the Holy Words in a devotional meeting that most people finally accept to go through the sequence of courses. It is also the devotional meeting that attract the maximum number of seekers. So if we want to see proper cycles of growth we have to start with the devotional meetings.

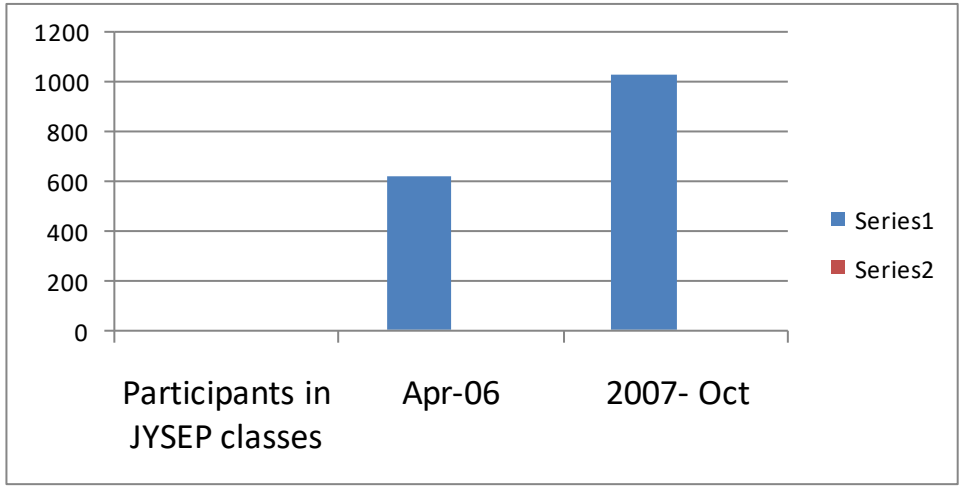
We need to not only increase this activity but also make sure more and more seekers are invited to our devotional meetings and the programme becomes more and more inspiring.

During the present five year plan the one activity that had actually gone down were the devotional meetings. At the beginning of the five year plan we had 230 devotional meetings. With the emphasis being shifted towards JYSEP classes and study circles, the number of devotional meetings slowly dropped to 180. But now we have seen a sudden surge in devotional meetings by the end of the last cycle we had got 235 devotional meetings. That is an increase of 55 devotional gatherings in one cycle. We expect this number to increase even more this cycle. The number of participants has also increased.



	Children classes			
Cluster	April 2006	Participants	Sep 2007	Partici-pants
Delhi	18	85	11	157
Tirwa	0	0	3	33
Bidhuna	19	218	20	212
Rasoolabad	2	20	2	20
Unnao Ha-sanganj	0	0	1	12
Barabanki	0	0	1	16
Itaunja	0	0	1	12
Kanpur	0	0	5	52
Lucknow	9	92	5	50
Rampur	1	10	4	93
Gorakpur	2	105	1	10
Mau	0	0	1	12
Varanasi	0	0	3	39
Kirakat	16		6	65
Dehradun	0	0	2	9
Kakori	16	207	23	259
Banthara	7	98	10	173
Total	90	835	99	1224

The number of participants in these classes has also gone up. In April 2006 there were 619 participants now there are 1029 participants.



A cluster wise analysis shows that the maximum increase seen has been in

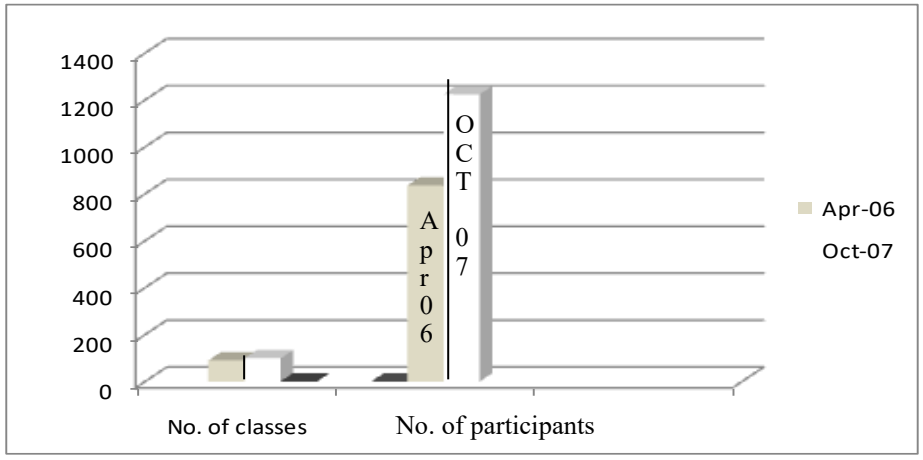
Name of cluster	No. of classes		Number of participants	
	1st April - 07	Oct-07	April—2006	Oct—07
Banthara	5	8	71	118
Bidhuna	13	4	207	46
Delhi	6	19	29	241
Itauja	0	1	0	8
Kakori	22	33	250	396
Kanpur	1	4	8	35
Kirakat	0	3	0	35
Lucknow	4	9	34	61
Rampur	0	2	0	27
Rasoolabad	1	2	15	20
Varanasi	1	1	5	12
Haidargarh	0	2	0	40
Gorakpur	0	1	0	12
Dehradun	0	1	0	8
Total	**53**	**90**	**619**	**1059**

BAHA'I CHILDREN CLASSES

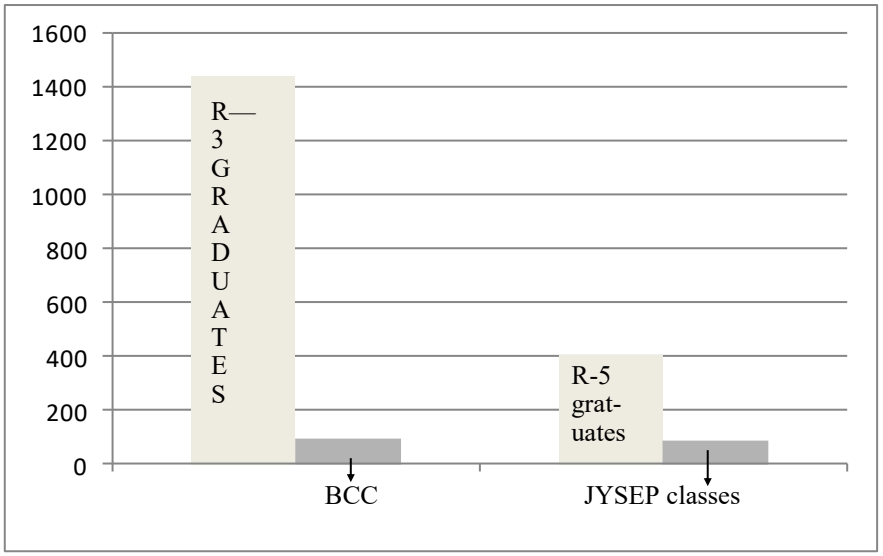
As far as the children classes are concerned we have not seen as much of a dramatic increase as we have seen in some of the other core activities.

In fact there was an increase seen sometime last year but after that the numbers have decreased and we are just slightly ahead of where we stood at the beginning of the plan.

This should be a matter of concern for all of us. There is a pattern of Spiritual education being offered by the Baha'is to the world. Starting from the time the children are small this spiritual education is given through the children classes followed by the JYSEP classes when they have become Junior youth and study circles when they have reached adulthood. If any of these components is missing the spiritual education is not complete. The childhood years are the most important when it comes to the spiritual upbringing of a person. If the children are not spiritually trained at that young age the Junior Youth empowerment programme may not prove as useful as when the children have a solid spiritual foundation in their childhood. It is the same with the study circles. If believers enter the institute process after years of spiritual training in children classes and JYSEP classes then they are much better able to benefit from the Ruhi courses, than if they have not received such training.



A look at our children classes shows that there were 90 children classes in the region with 835 students at the beginning of the five year plan. Now there are 99 classes with 1224 students. Although there has been an increase in numbers this increase is not significant. This is specially so if we consider the fact that there are 1441 believers who have studied Ruhi 3. This means only 6.8 percent of those who have studied Ruhi 3 are actually holding children classes. Compare this to JYSEP groups where we have 403 animators and 90 classes. That means almost 22.3 % of those who have done R-5 are taking JYSEP classes. This puts a great responsi-



bility on the shoulders of the cluster coordinators. They need to put a practical target for themselves for example 25% or 30% of all R-3 graduates in the cluster holding children classes. Then they should work to achieve this target within a reasonable period - let's say three months. This will not only increase the number of children classes in the cluster. But it will also make sure that in future there is a complete transformation in the cluster and in the State.